

**PALM SPRINGS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA
MINUTES**

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education, District Administration Center, 150 District Center Drive, Palm Springs, CA 92264, October 26, 2021.

This meeting was held in-person and livestreamed.

AGENDA – CLOSED SESSION (2:45 PM)

1. CLOSED SESSION OPENING CEREMONY:

The Closed Session meeting was called to order by President Wood at 2:46 pm with the following persons present:

Tim Wood	President
Madonna Gerrell	Clerk
Karen Cornett	Member
Sergio Espericueta	Member
John Gerardi	Member

Mike Swize, Ed.D.	Superintendent
Brian Murray, Ed.D.	Assistant Superintendent, Business Services
Tony Signoret, Ed.D.	Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Simone Kovats, Ed.D.	Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services

2. CLOSED SESSION:

At this time, the Board of Education went into Closed Session to take up matters identified on the Closed Session agenda.

3. HEARING SECTION:

There were no public comments.

4. RECESS FROM CLOSED SESSION:

Closed Session was recessed at 6:05 p.m.

5. REGULAR MEETING OPENING CEREMONY (6:00 PM):

- a. The Public Session meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm with the following persons present:

Tim Wood	Board President
Madonna Gerrell	Board Clerk
Karen Cornett	Board Member
Sergio Espericueta	Board Member
John Gerardi	Board Member

Ramon Salado	Student Board Member
Mike Swize, Ed.D.	Superintendent
Brian Murray, Ed.D.	Assistant Superintendent, Business Services
Tony Signoret, Ed.D.	Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Simone Kovats, Ed.D.	Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services

In accordance with the California Education Code Section 35144 and Brown Act, written notices of the meeting were delivered to the Board, news media, and a copy posted seventy-two hours in advance of the time of the meeting.

b. Pledge of Allegiance

Student Ramon Salado, Desert Hot Springs High School led the Pledge.

c. Mission Statement

Board Member Gerardi read the Mission Statement.

6. REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION ACTIONS:

Member Garrell – The Board concluded its deliberations of the appeal hearing pursuant to AR 1312.1 and will render a decision to the Complainants and Respondents.

7. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Cornett moved and Member Espericueta seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

- AYES: Members Wood, Cornett, Gerrell, Espericueta, Gerardi
- NOES: None
- ABSTAIN: None
- ABSENT: None

8. STUDENT BAORD MEMBER REPORT:

The Student Board Member Report will be presented by Desert Hot Springs High School Student Board Member Ramon Salado.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Clerk Gerrell stated that one written comment was received and distributed to the Board earlier today.

Executive Assistant, Erika Barragan stated that no telephonic comments were received.

In-person Comments: The following individuals provided in-person comments:

- 1) Rocio Conde, PSUSD Employee
- 2) Veronica Moreno, PSUSD Employee
- 3) Rudy Villareal, Community Member
- 4) Caden Cross, Student - DHSHS

- 5) Danniell Porras, Assistant City Manager – City of Desert Hot Springs
- 6) Quevette Harris, Parent

10. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Member Espericueta:

- On October 14th I attended the Cathedral City High School Homecoming parade. It was a very good event with a good turnout.
- On October 20th I attended the Palm Springs High School Homecoming parade. We were happy to have that event in person.
- I want to thank the community and parents for the public comments. It is good for us to have more people expressing their point of view and their concerns. And we take those comments seriously, thank you.

Member Cornett:

- Thank you to all the people that came out tonight and provided public comments. The board always welcomes input from the public and we do take into consideration what you say to us. Thank you very much.
- Thank you to Desert Hot Springs for sending your elite people down here to share with us tonight. I am looking forward to having our district work with our local law enforcement agencies about the security on our school campuses, so thank you for that.
- The Homecoming parades for Cathedral City and Palm Springs High School were fabulous. There was a great community turnout for both of those, and Desert Hot Springs, this week is your homecoming.
- Thank you, Student Board Member Ramon Salado, for your wonderful report. It was excellent. Thank you and it had lots of information.
- Last week the Board of Education worked for two days with our Superintendent and Assistant Superintendents and our consultants on board work. That is something that I really look forward to doing three times a year.
- Testing for COVID and vaccination clinics are available and last week I was able to take advantage of the one here. Also, our cares rooms in each of our schools are staffed with a nurse or a licensed vocational nurse that provide COVID testing daily.

Member Gerardi:

- Ramon, great job on the presentation. I really like the way you incorporated those videos in there. They were very entertaining, and they really painted a great picture of what's happening on the campus at Desert Hot Springs High School, so thank you.
- I want to congratulate Nichi Avina who was our California Teacher of the Year, she came from Cielo Vista Charter Elementary.
- Both our high schools had great homecoming parades.
- I want to thank our partners from Desert Hot Springs for coming out today. It is good to see you guys and obviously we want to work in partnership with all of our public service agencies and all of the public agencies here in the valley.
- I want to share out over the last couple of Friday updates, I have seen a lot of professional development that is being put out there. Really great job, all of the opportunities for our staff and faculty and our security officers. Just a tremendous amount. I wanted you guys to know, its noticeable.

- Finally, I want to say thank you to counselor Cindy at Palm Springs High School. Thank you, good job!

Member Gerrell:

- This week is very important, for the past 34 years we have been saying no to drugs and we wear red to show our unity. Helping us educate and guide our kids. Some schools are calling it spirit week and others are doing a number of different activities to help kids remember that we want them to stay safe and healthy especially as we near Halloween.
- Hats off to Ramon Salado for his upcoming activities and the beautiful graphics and glimpses of what's coming this weekend. I hope you win your game.
- We also had a chance on the 19th and 20th to meet as a Board together for two days and talk about important issues and planning preparation for the upcoming year and what's really important is our Superintendent, Dr. Swize gave us a report about the first 100 days of school and it was a very positive strong report and he showed us that this school district is world class, as I have always said, and is working very hard to meet the needs of every child. Not that it is perfect, it's just that we can see that we have a lots of good things happening and congratulate everyone on those accomplishments. However, we still have work to do.
- I also want to address that we had an equity presentation from Dr. Nicole Crawford with the help of Dr. Simone Kovats. I know that as a board we are laying the foundation for equity and helping our future students grow across all curriculums. Not just in helping students with emotional social well-being, but in all content areas. So thank you to Simone and Nicole. The equity and diversity plans are in motion and you will be seeing more happening in our district and that is just a dream come true for me.
- We had Hispanic Heritage Month and we had a big celebration. There were over 500 votes casted for the teacher of the year. Hispanic teacher of the year went to Carmen Vargas from Palm Springs High School. She teaches ballet folklorico. We also had a parent of the year from Bubbling Wells.

Member Wood:

- Many of you may not know that the Board goes out fairly often and does these little talks with different community groups. The Rotary Clubs, Kiwanis, Retired Teachers. I think we may have seen 20 or 30 of them on the calendar over the last month and a half. So, I want to say thank you to all of you for continuing to always reach out to our communities for what is happening. Also want to thank Joan because she coordinates all of these, and she makes sure that all of our schedules are done correctly. She makes sure that there's always somebody appearing everywhere. She fills in for us or finds somebody to fill in when something happens on our calendar. I want to thank you for all of the work that you do for us, and I really appreciate what you are doing because it makes a big difference.

11. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

- To all of our speakers, public speakers this evening. The Cabinet team will be following up on all of your concerns and all of your comments. So thank you for coming tonight and sharing those.

- Before I begin with the public health update, I want to echo what the board has already said about Ramon's presentation tonight. Thank you so much, I know you make your high school very proud. And your proud principal Dr. Cota as well as your USB director Dr. Velasquez. Thank you both for being here. Ramon that was an excellent presentation. I love that it highlights all of the positives, there's so many good things that happen in Desert Hot Springs High School and it is nice to have those lifted up publicly because we are very proud of you and very proud of that school as well.
- Public Health Update: Our case rate is 12 cases per 100,000 which is down from 15.3 the last time I spoke to you two weeks ago. At one point we were over 34 per 100,000 so you can see that this is definitely trending in the right direction. Our current District dashboard shows that we have nine students with active cases and seven staff members. Again, as Member Cornett mentioned, we are vaccinating for COVID-19 as well as flu vaccinations and doing testing for COVID at every site five days a week.
- I also want to mention our amazing teacher of the year Nichi Avina. She joins a very long and proud line of California state teachers from Palm Springs Unified which is something that is so amazing. We really want to congratulate her for this very well-deserved honor. She teaches in the middle school section of Cielo Vista Charter School and she teaches science. She has been very instrumental in working on their garden, their stem lab and they do an art mentoring program. She has hosted her very own site, a trauma-informed educational workshop. As was mentioned, today the City of San Diego proclaimed October 26th as Nichi Avina day. We know she is going to be honored in many ways here locally as well. I know the news media is just putting that information out. I am glad they are going to celebrate her. Thank you KESQ for the story about Nichi that came out today. She was also honored in the Palm Springs High School homecoming parade. We know that there will be more celebrations, and in fact, City Council Member, Geoff Kors is putting forward a proclamation from the city of Palm Springs. We are looking forward from a visit from the State Superintendent Tony Thurmond who has said he would like to come out to Palm Springs Unified to honor Mrs. Avina in person.
- On Monday we started our school resource officer training, so we are hosting that training here in Palm Springs Unified. It is being provided by the National Association for School Resource Officers and that training will take place across the entire week. There are between 15 and 20 participants including representatives from law enforcement agencies here in the valley, school district administrators, prevention specialist and we even have some law enforcement officers from Irvine who have actually traveled to the valley to participate in the training we are hosting. Some of the topics that they are covering in that training include the SRO's role as a teacher, how to work with special needs students, how resource officers are informal counselors at the school, how school resource officers can use and monitor social media as it relates to high school students. There is a special session understanding the teen brain. And a day that I know we are looking forward to in a couple of days here which is a training specific to developing relationships with our diverse student population. Of course, there are sessions on drugs and school safety

and violence. We are so very proud to be hosting this in partnership with all of the law enforcement agencies. Thank you to Chief Henson for being here this evening. I will speak a little bit more about the SRO contracts in just a moment.

12. BOARD ACTION ITEMS:

12.a. APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT NO.1 TO AGREEMENT C0004151 AND C0004161 FOR THE SAFETY RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM WITH THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, AND CITY OF DESERT HOT SPRINGS.

Member Gerrell moved and Member Cornett seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Members Wood, Cornett, Gerrell, Espericueta and Gerardi
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

12.b. APPROVAL OF ESSER III EXPENDITURE PLAN FOR PALM SPRINGS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (OE-10)

Member Gerardi moved and Member Cornett seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Members Wood, Cornett, Gerrell, Espericueta and Gerardi
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

12.c. APPROVAL OF MONITROING REPORT, GOVERNING POLICY: OPERATIONAL EXPECTATIONS, PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION (OE-4)

Member Cornett moved and Member Espericueta seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Members Wood, Cornett, Gerrell, Espericueta and Gerardi
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

12.d. APPROVAL OF MONITORING REPORT, GOVERNING POLICY: R-2.1 ACADEMIC ACHEIVEMENT IN CORE ACADEMIC DISCIPLINES IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (R 2.1)

Member Gerardi moved and Member Espericueta seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Members Wood, Cornett, Gerrell, Espericueta and Gerardi
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

12.e. APPROVAL OF EXPULSION CASE 2021/2022-008, RECOMMENDATIONS AND FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSION OF LAW (OE-11)

12.g. APPROVAL OF EXPULSION CASE 2021/2022-012, RECOMMENDATIONS AND FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSION OF LAW (OE-11)

12.h. APPROVAL OF EXPULSION CASE 2021/2022-013, RECOMMENDATIONS AND FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSION OF LAW (OE-11)

Items 12.e, 12.g and 12.h: Member Gerardi moved and Member Cornett seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Members Wood, Cornett, Gerrell, Espericueta and Gerardi
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

12.f. APPROVAL OF EXPULSION CASE 2021/2022-011, WITH THE SCHOOLYEAR EXPULSION FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSION OF LAW (OE-11)

Items 12.f: Member Gerardi moved and Member Espericueta seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Members Wood, Cornett, Gerrell, Espericueta and Gerardi
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

13. SUPERINTENDENT'S CONSENT ITEMS:

13.a. APPROVAL OF CERTIFICATED AND CLASSIFIES EMPLOYEE TRANSACTIONS (OE-4.4)

13.b. APPROVAL OF RECOGNITION OF QIALIFIED SCHOOL-CONNECTED ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE PALM SPRINGS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (OE-6.7)

13.c. APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATION TO APPOINT CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS (OE-7.9)

13.d. APPROVAL OF DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS PROPERTY REPORT PER RESOLUTION NO. 2021/2022-02 (OE-7.9)

13.e. APPROVAL TO FILE NOTICE OF COMPLETION WITH GDL BEST CONTRACTORS, INC., FOR DRINKING FOUNTAIN REPLACEMENT PHASE 5, AGREEMENT NO. (OE-12.12)

13.f. APPROVAL OF AGREEMENTS TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS OR MORE AND OTHER CONTRACTS (OE-6.2)

13.g. APPROVAL OF PURCHASE ORDER REPORT (OE-6.2)

Member Gerardi moved and Member Espericueta seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Members Wood, Cornett, Gerrell, Espericueta and Gerardi
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

14. BOARD CONSENT ITEM:

a. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes – October 12, 2021

Member Gerardi moved and Member Espericueta seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Members Wood, Cornett, Gerrell, Espericueta and Gerardi
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

15. INFORMATION

15.a WILLIAMS CASE-REPORT OF COMPLAINTS (OE-4.12, OE-10.12, AND OE-12.10)

15.b SUBMISSION OF EARLY HEAD START AND HEAD START REPORTS PER REQUIREMENTS FOR THE HEAD START ACT FOR MAY, JUNE, AND JULY 2021 (OE-10.1)

16. SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no suggestions for future agendas.

17. SETTING OF THE NEXT BOARD MEETING:

a. Regular Board Meeting:

Regular Session: November 9, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

18. DEBRIEF:

None

19. ADJOURNMENT:

Member Gerardi moved and Member Cornett seconded approval.

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Members Wood, Cornett, Gerrell, Espericueta and Gerardi

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Recorder: Erika Barragan